

## REMARKS

The objection to Claim 13 has been addressed.

The rejections of Claims 9-14 and 17-19 as being anticipated by Thomas et al., under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and of Claims 15 and 16 as being unpatentable over Thomas et al., in view of Kishi et al., under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are traversed. Reconsideration of each rejection is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and following comments.

The Thomas et al., patent is directed to an air massager cushioning device for air spring bedding, as shown in Figs. 1-13 as well as seats and chairs of the type shown in Figs. 14-16 and teaches or suggests nothing whatsoever about contouring. In this connection, the air glands or springs in the Thomas et al., systems or subsystems are interconnected by the tube 38. With such a collective, as opposed to individual, actuation of these air springs, the Thomas et al., systems did not address adjusting the bedding seat or chair for an individual's contour.

The present invention as defined in Claims 9 and 17 requires individually pressurizable elements, not collectively actuatable ones. Nor does the Thomas et al., patent teach or suggest the use of separate lines to actuate the elements as defined in Claims 10 and 13.

The same can be said with respect to the Kishi et al., fatigue reducing device which uses pressurizable elements but has nothing to do with also

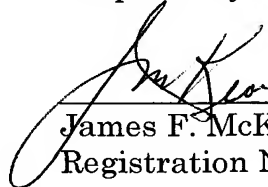
allowing adjustment of seat contour. That is, assuming, purely for argument's sake, that the teachings of Thomas et al., and Kishi et al., would have been combinable without the need for impermissible hindsight, the resulting hypothetical combination would not be the seat or seating surface defined in the claims of this application.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #095309.56013US).

Respectfully submitted,

**April 27, 2007**

  
James F. McKeown  
Registration No. 25,406

CROWELL & MORING LLP  
Intellectual Property Group  
P.O. Box 14300  
Washington, DC 20044-4300  
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500  
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844  
JFM:pjc